

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.(original) Method of communicating between at least two electronic entities (12<sub>1</sub>, 12<sub>2</sub>, 12<sub>3</sub>), said method involving communication management means (10) that employ a command-response protocol to communicate with said electronic entities (12<sub>1</sub>, 12<sub>2</sub>, 12<sub>3</sub>), and said method being characterized in that at least one of said electronic entities (12<sub>1</sub>, 12<sub>2</sub>) communicates with said communication management means (10) using a wireless technology and in that it includes a step consisting in storing a list of said electronic entities in the communication management means (10).

2.(original) Method according to claim 1, characterized in that said electronic entities (12<sub>1</sub>, 12<sub>2</sub>, 12<sub>3</sub>) constitute a network of acquaintances.

3.(currently amended) Method according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, characterized in that it includes a step of storing a message intended for at least one of said at least two electronic entities (12<sub>1</sub>, 12<sub>2</sub>, 12<sub>3</sub>) when the addressee electronic entity is temporarily out of range of the communication management means (10).

4.(currently amended) Method according to claim 1, ~~claim 2 or claim 3~~, characterized in that each of said at least two electronic entities (12<sub>1</sub>, 12<sub>2</sub>, 12<sub>3</sub>) is associated with a unique identifier.

5.(currently amended) Method according to ~~the preceding~~ claim 4, characterized in that each identifier is associated with a service or family code.

6.(currently amended) Method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that it includes a step of creating a mailbox in the communication management means (10) when said list includes a new electronic entity, said mailbox being adapted to receive and store messages sent to or by said new electronic entity.

7.(original) Method according to claim 2, characterized in that, when said list includes a new electronic entity, it includes a step of adding the new electronic entity to said network of acquaintances as a function of at least one predetermined criterion.

8.(currently amended) Method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that it includes steps whereby said communication management means (10):

- scan (E80) said list of electronic entities,
- ask (E84) each electronic entity if it has a message to send, and if so:
  - store (E90) said message in a mailbox,
  - send (E94) said message to the electronic entity that is the addressee of the message when it can be contacted, and then:
    - eliminate (E98) the message from said mailbox.

9.(currently amended) Method according to ~~the preceding~~ claim 1, characterized in that said mailbox is an inbox.

10.(currently amended) Method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that it involves at

least three electronic entities and in that said communication management means (10) are combined with one of said electronic entities.

11.(currently amended) Method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that said communication management means (10) serve as a proxy for accessing at least one of said at least two electronic entities.

12.(currently amended) Method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that it includes a step of assigning a time to live (TTL) to each message awaiting reception by an addressee electronic entity.

13.(currently amended) Method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that it includes a step of assigning a priority (P) to each message exchanged in the context of said command-response protocol.

14.(currently amended) Method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that it is adapted to broadcast a message (BROADCAST) from one of said at least two electronic entities to all the other electronic entities.

15.(currently amended) Method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that at least one of said at least two electronic entities is portable.

16.(currently amended) Method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that at least one of said at least two electronic entities communicates with the communication management means (10) using a contactless technology.

17.(currently amended) Method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that at least one of said at least two electronic entities is secure.

18.(currently amended) Method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that at least one of said at least two electronic entities is a contactless microcircuit card.

19.(currently amended) Method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that at least one of said electronic entities is a loyalty card.

20.(currently amended) Method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that at least one of said electronic entities is a payment card.

21.(currently amended) Method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that it ensures continuity of communication involving one of said electronic entities and an antenna from a plurality of antennas connected to the communication management means when said electronic entity moves in such a manner that said communication involves another antenna from said plurality of antennas.

22.(currently amended) Method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that said electronic entities participate in a process of personalizing a contactless object and in that said process includes at least one step of mutual authentication of the electronic entities, reciprocal or otherwise.

23.(currently amended) Method according to ~~the preceding claim~~ 1, characterized in that said process includes passing the object

(44) to be personalized in front of a plurality of stations (46) each including wireless communication means connected to the communication management means (10) and in that said method ensures continuity of the personalization process when the object passes from one station to the next.

24.(currently amended) Method according to ~~the preceding~~ claim 1, characterized in that the object communicates with said plurality of stations using a contactless technology.